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Nineteenth special session
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Note by the President of the General Assembly

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 47/190 of 22 December 1992, 50/113 of 20 December 1995 and 51/181 of 16 December 1996, the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 was convened for a duration of one week, from 23 to 27 June 1997. The provisional agenda of the special session was issued as document A/S-19/1.

2. Taking into consideration the practice of previous special sessions, the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 51/181 and decision 51/467 of 18 April 1997, and the informal consultations held by the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session with Member States on 2 and 4 April 1997 on the organization of the special session, the Assembly may wish to consider the following arrangements for the nineteenth special session:

1. President

3. The nineteenth special session shall take place under the presidency of the President of the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

2. Vice-Presidents

4. The Vice-Presidents of the nineteenth special session shall be the same as at the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

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3. General Committee

5. The General Committee of the nineteenth special session shall consist of the President of the special session, the 21 Vice-Presidents of the special session, the Chairmen of the six Main Committees of the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the special session.

4. Credentials Committee

6. The Credentials Committee of the nineteenth special session shall have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

5. Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

7. The nineteenth special session shall establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the nineteenth special session. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole shall consist of one Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and one Rapporteur.

6. Rules of procedure

8. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly shall apply at the nineteenth special session.

7. Level of representation

9. In paragraph 1 of resolution 51/181, the General Assembly decided that representation should be "at the highest political level of participation".

8. Allocation of items

10. The substantive item (overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21) shall be allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the nineteenth special session for consideration, on the understanding that the debate on the item shall take place in plenary meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee would be entrusted with the task of considering all proposals submitted and preparing the final document(s) for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole will also hear statements from observers, representatives of United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and others.

9. Debate on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

11. The debate on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 shall begin in plenary meeting on the morning of Monday, 23 June and end in the afternoon of Friday, 27 June 1997. Owing to the large number of speakers expected to take the floor in a limited amount of time, statements should not exceed 7 minutes.

12. Without creating a precedent, Heads of State, Vice-Presidents, Crown Princes and Princesses and Heads of Government shall have equal standing as concerns the list of speakers.

10. Participation of speakers other than Member States in the debate

13. States members of the specialized agencies which are not members of the United Nations but which were invited to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 51/181, and intergovernmental and other organizations and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the Assembly will be invited to participate in the debate in plenary meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole will also hear statements by observers.

14. Representatives of United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and others will be invited to participate in the debate in plenary meeting, provided they are at the highest level. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole will also hear statements by representatives of United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and others.

15. In accordance with General Assembly decision 51/467 of 18 April 1997, the President of the Assembly extended invitations to representatives of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 and represented by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and on the roster, to participate in the debate in plenary meeting.